

Watervliet Shakers South Family Brothers'

Dormitory, Building #2

South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route #155),
approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road

Albany Vicinity (Colonie)

Albany County

New York

HABS No. NY-3260

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WATERVLIET SHAKERS SOUTH FAMILY BROTHERS' DORMITORY,
BUILDING #2

Address: South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route #155),
approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road,
Albany Vicinity (Colonie), Albany County,
New York.

Present Owner: Leonard Bol, Shaker Road, Albany, New York.

Present Occupants: Rented by Mr. Bol to tenants.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement
of Significance: According to the Lassiter manuscript, this building originally had a carpenter's shop in the south end of the first floor. It is uncertain whether it was used as a dwelling when first constructed; however, in 1926 the few remaining Shaker brothers lived here, and the basement was used for the storage of vegetables.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: South Family of Watervliet Shakers - original owners, and in possession until 1938. Mr. Leonard Bol - 1939 to present.
- B. Date of Erection: Nineteenth century
- C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: The original roofing had been already covered with some type of composition roofing by the time the photograph was taken in 1939. Subsequent to this date new siding was added and a shelter added to the basement entrance.

The 1939 photograph also indicates that a few of the original panes of the double-hung sash windows remained. The Shakers used the small panes throughout a good part of the 19th century when they were no longer fashionable in the "world." However, often, as the photograph indicates, they too moved with the times and replaced the twelve-over-eight windows with two-over-two light when repair was necessary.

- D. Sources of information: Lassiter, William Lawrence.
"A Catalog of Shaker Photographs and Measured Drawings"

in the Historic Collection of the New York State Education Department, Albany, New York." An unpublished catalog of Shaker material belonging to the University of State of New York, Division of Archives and History, Albany, New York, 1960. (Mimeographed).

(See data pages for Watervliet Shakers South Family, HABS #NY-3272, for general historical information on the South Family).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This building is a typical example of the simple rectangular frame structures built by the Shakers in the 19th century. Particularly characteristic are the cove cornice, the low-pitched gable roof, and the single-pitched "hoods" that cover the entryways.
2. Condition of fabric: In good condition, although the appearance has been greatly altered.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 52'-3-1/2" (west side) x 20'-2-1/2"; two stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Frame with bevel siding.
4. Stoops: West side: Two, two-stepped stoops.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys at the gable ridge, approximately 17' from end walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors: West side: Two, four-panel doors.
East side: Double, four-panel doors to the basement.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung wooden sashes; twelve-over-eight (many of which were replaced in the later 19th century by two-over-two lights).

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low pitched gable roof with composite roofing.
- b. Cornice: Plaster cove that is typical of 19th century Shaker buildings.
- c. Dormers: Shaker buildings seldom, if ever, have dormers.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor: Three successive rooms separated by two halls with stairs. Second floor: Similar.
2. Heating: No fireplaces evident. Shaker buildings were generally heated by iron stoves that were designed and built by the brethren.

- D. Site: The long axis of the Brothers' Dormitory runs approximately north-south.

Prepared by John C. Poppeliers, Architectural
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National Park Service
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